



Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Wild Horse & Burro Program



**For Immediate Release**

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**For Additional Information**

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## **Wild Horse & Burro Adoption Heading to Elk City!**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is heading to the Rocking M Arena in Elk City, Oklahoma, May 12-14, 2005. The three-day event will feature approximately 80 spectacular animals available for adoption on Friday and Saturday, May 13 and 14.

Preview of all animals available for adoption begins Thursday, May 12, from 4-6 p.m. Doors open again at 8 a.m. Friday and Saturday. The competitive bid adoption begins Friday, May 13, at 10 a.m. Following the initial competitive bid on Friday morning, walkup adoptions will continue throughout the weekend until noon on Saturday, May 14. The minimum adoption fee is \$125 per animal to qualified adopters.

The majority of the weanlings available for adoption were born in captivity on BLM contracted pastures in Oklahoma and Kansas; the studs and mares were gathered from herds in the western states. About 10 burros will also be available for adoption.

Wild Horse and Burro Program Manager Bob Mitchell observed, "These animals are noted for their endurance, sure-footedness, and strong sense of loyalty to their caretaker. These qualities make them excellent stock for ranch work."

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To qualify to adopt at the event, bidders must be at least 18 years old, with no record of animal abuse. In addition, adopters must have specific facilities and can adopt no more than four animals. All animals must be loaded in a covered trailer with solid walls and floors – no drop ramp trailers.

This event presents an opportunity for the public to participate in the adoption process and share in their American heritage. The BLM has placed more than 203,000 horses in approved homes across the country.

For more information on the Beaumont adoption, call **866-4-Mustangs**, or visit

[www.wildhorseandburro.gov](http://www.wildhorseandburro.gov).

**Directions to the Rocking M Arena:** From I-40, take Exit 41, go three miles north on Hwy 34. The Rocking M Arena is located on the east side of Hwy 34.

#### **Media Activities:**

- Excellent photo opportunities starting **Thursday** morning, 8 a.m., as wild horses arrive at the site and wranglers unload them for the adoption.
- Follow an adopter from registration to the ride home.
- Talk with past adopters about their experience with the program.
- Meet BLM mascots – Chester and Radar.
- Interview BLM Wild Horse and Burro Specialists about the history of the program, and find out what qualifies as a good home.

*The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing the nation's public lands. With the passage of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, the Bureau gained the responsibility to care for wild horses and burros on these lands in harmony with other natural resources. When an over-population of wild horses and burros exists on these public lands, some animals are removed and offered to the general public for adoption.*

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